

A NEW SPECIES OF ORMOSIA FROM BAHIA

Joseph V. Monachino

*ORMOSIA BAHIENSIS* Monachino, sp. nov.

Arbor, ca. 9 m. alta, 10 cm. diametro; ramulis ca. 7 mm. diametro, cinereis glabris vel glabrescentibus; foliis 7-foliolatis, secus rhachidem parce pubescentibus; petiolis 3.0--3.5 cm. longis; petiolulis ca. 4 mm. longis parce pubescentibus; laminis foliolorum ovatis vel ovato-lanceolatis vel ellipticis, 6.5--9.5 cm. longis et 3.0--4.5 cm. latis, ad basin rotundatis vel subcordatis asymmetricis, ad apicem breviter acuminatis obtusis, utrinque subglabris (costa subtus parcissime pilosis); reticulo venarum venulorumque supra obscuro; venis secundariis subtus subelevatis arcuatis utrinsecus ca. 8, venulis ultimis obscuris; ramis infructescentiae arcte pubescentibus; pedicellis brevissimis; bracteolis lanceolatis ca. 1.5 mm. longis; fructibus breviter stipitatis vel sessilibus, 2.5--5.0 cm. longis, 2.5--3.0 cm. latis dehiscentibus, senectute subtortulosis, glabris; seminibus solitariis vel binariis ca. 13 mm. longis, 10 mm. latis, rubris unicoloratis, hilo ca. 1 mm. longo.

Tree, about 9 m. high and 10 cm. DBH; branchlets about 7 mm. diam., cineraceous, glabrous or glabrescent, the buds generally several together, superposed, brown-ferruginous tomentose, the leaf-scars raised, shield-shaped, margins slightly elevated, the bundle-scars contiguous near center of leaf-scar; leaves 7-foliolate, the rachis 9--12 cm. long with a terminal prolongation of 1.0--17 mm., sparsely pilose, indumentum longest persistent at base of petioles and petiolules, the petioles 3.0--3.5 cm. long, the petiolules about 4 mm. long, incrassate, sparsely pilose, the leaflet-blades ovate to ovate-lanceolate or elliptic, 6.5--9.5 cm. long and 3.0--4.5 cm. broad, rounded to subcordate and inequilateral at base, short-acuminate and blunt at apex, essentially glabrous except for a few pale-brown hairs (up to 0.5 mm. long) along midrib on underside, dotted with scattered brown resinous atoms, somewhat shining yellow-olive on upperside and pale on underside, the nervature faint on upperside, the secondaries few, about 3 pairs, arcuate, slightly raised on underside, the ultimate veinlets obscure, seen faintly raised under a lense, the tissue of leaves coriaceous; flowers not seen; infructescence-branches pubescent with rusty or greyish, mostly appressed hairs; pedicels very short, the bracteoles lanceolate, about 1.5 mm. long; legumes shortly stipitate or sessile, 2.5--5.0 cm. long and 2.5--3.0 cm. broad, more or less compressed, sharp-keeled on dorsal or placental side, dehiscent and becoming subtortulose, the valves glabrous, punctate, lightly rugulose or smooth, dark-brown and somewhat

shining outside, ligneous; seeds single or two in each legume, about 13 mm. long and 10 mm. broad, red, unicolored, the hilum about 1 mm. long.

Type: Ricardo de Lemos Froes 12629, Brazil, Bahia, municip. Andarahy, "Carrasco" dry land, 1000 m. alt.; October 10, 1942; "Mongolo"; deposited at The New York Botanical Garden.

Ormosia bahiensis is a distinctive species in its nearly glabrous leaflets with few secondaries and obscure reticulation. Not more than a single leaflet is necessary to separate it easily from all the other species of which material is available at The New York Botanical Garden.

The description of Ormosia holerythra Ducke is strikingly like that of our plant, but Ducke's species is here judged to be distinct from ours upon consideration of its geographical distribution. O. holerythra is known from Pará, Obidos and the lower Rio Trombetas in the Amazon system. Furthermore, Ducke states that his species has completely glabrous leaves, whereas O. bahiensis is distinctly short-pilose on its petiolules and elsewhere.

The affinity of O. bahiensis is probably closer with O. nitida Vogel. The type of the latter was collected by Sellow between Vittoria and Bahia; Ducke reports the species from the Rio Dôce, Espírito Santo, on the basis of Kuhlmann 110. There is at The New York Botanical Garden a photo of the type that was in the Berlin herbarium. The leaflets of O. nitida are more or less distinctly cuneiform at the base, the sparse lateral nerves diverge from the midrib at an acute angle (about 30--40 degrees, whereas in O. bahiensis they form an angle of about 60 degrees with the midrib), the petiolules appear to be 6--7 mm. long. Bentham (in Mart. Fl. Bras. 15 (1): 315. 1862) describes the seeds of O. nitida as bicolored. According to Harms (in Fedde Rep. Sp. Nov. 19: 288. 1924) Bentham's description refers to O. arborea (Vell.) Harms, and Ducke (Ann. Acad. Brasil Sci. 11: 187. 1939) places O. nitida in subsect. Unicolores, characterized by entirely red seeds. O. arborea, which O. bahiensis more resembles in leaflet shape, has a greater number of lateral nerves, bolder veinlets, and a more pubescent habit. Its furfuraceous indumentum consists of very short appressed hairs, much different from the pilosity of O. bahiensis. The seeds are bicolored (e.g., Hoehne 29416).

Besides O. nitida and O. arborea, four additional species are known from southern Brazil. O. fastigiata Tul. has densely tomentose leaflets with numerous lateral nerves. This is the only southern Ormosia with a distributional range embracing northern Brazil (Minas Gerais to Venezuela). O. friburgensis Glaziou & Taub. ex Harms has small leaflets 2--5.5 cm. long, 1--2 cm. wide, and large seeds, up to 25 mm. in diameter. O. Glazioviana Harms has leaflets tomentose or subtomentose be-

neath and bicolored seeds. O. minor Vogel has clearly different nervature from O. bahiensis, tomentose fruits, and bicolored seeds.

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A NEW VARIETY OF CHRYSOPHYLLUM AURATUM MIQ.

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The Sapotaceae, more so than other families of plants, often evince morphological characters or trends which seem to suggest almost contradictory criteria. On the one hand, small structural differences may indicate specific distinctions, and on the other hand, conspicuous characters may signify only variation or merely a varietal distinction. Some species of not too close affinity, or even different genera, simulate each other, so to make identification from incomplete material hazardous. As an example of a feature which is generally unreliable can be counted foliage indumentum, the customarily deciduous habit of which is well known. There are many instances of variation in number of flower parts and in cells of the ovary, sometimes even on the same branch. Yet it should be kept in mind that every character is sometimes diagnostic, and, as to the rest of the plant kingdom, there is no infallible rule. As a general rule, the character of pubescence on the corolla is reliable, but, as can be seen from the variety described below, it may be of less than specific importance.

CHRYSOPHYLLUM AURATUM var. GLABRIFLORUM Monachino, var. nov.

A varietate typica corolla extus glabra vel sparse strigosa recedit.

Branchlets lightly verrucose; petioles 7--18 mm. long, blades 5.5--16 cm. long, 3.2--7.8 cm. broad, closely rufous-sericeous beneath, the principal lateral nerves arcuate, well-spaced, ca. 13 pairs; pedicels ca. 5--6 mm. long; sepals orbicular-ovate, ca. 1.7 cm. long, sericeous outside, glabrous within; corolla-tube 3.3--3.7 mm. long, glabrous or very sparsely strigose outside near summit, corolla-lobes 1--1.4 mm. long; ovary sericeous; stigma-lobules 5.

Type: W. H. Camp No. E 3837, Ecuador, junction of the provinces of Guayas, Cañar, Chimborazo, and Bolívar, foothills of the western cordillera near the village of Bucay, 1000--1200 feet elevation; June 8--15, 1945; forest tree, 12 m., with milky sap, leaves deep green, nitid above, pale yellow green beneath, calyx reddish, corolla pale greenish yellow. (Deposited in the New York Botanical Garden).